

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 07956 030922Z

13

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 /005 W

----- 128085

O R 030854Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2394

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 7956

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATES S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. HARD FIGHTING IS CONTINUING IN THE ROUTE 3 AREA FOLLOWING THE FANK OFFENSIVE WHICH BEGAN THURSDAY MORNING. ALTHOUGH EARLIER THE ENEMY USED TEAR GAS TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS BACK, LATEST REPORTS INDICATE FANK HAS MADE IMPORTANT GAINS ON THIS FRONT. SIGNIFICANT CAUSALTIES WERE REPORTED ON BOTH SIDES WITH FANK RECOVERING 26 ENEMY WEAPONS. U.S. PLANES CONTINUE TO PROVIDE AIR SUPPORT.

2. ENEMY FORCES ON FRIDAY POSED A NEW THREAT TO PHNOM PENH AS THEY CUT HIGHWAY ONE IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS BETWEEN THE CAPITAL AND DEY ETH. FIELD REPORTS INDICATE THE NEAREST ENEMY CUT IS SOME TEN KILOMETERS FROM THE MONIVONG BRIDGE ACROSS THE BASSAC INTO PHNOM PENH. FANK REACTION FORCES ARE BEING DISPATCHED TO THE SCENE AS HUNDREDS OF NEW REFUGEES POURED ACROSS THE BRIDGE INTO THE CITY. AT DEY ETH, THE ENEMY HAS OCCUPIED A PADODA WHILE 200 METERS AWAY FANK FORCES ARE CONFRONTING THEM FROM A SCHOOL COMPOUND.

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 07956 030922Z

FANK REPORTS CASUALTIES FOR BOTH SIDES IN THIS

NEWST ACTION.

3. THE ENEMY HAS EXPANDED HIS CONTROL OF ROUTE 7 EAST OF SKOUN TO THE TOWN OF PREY TOTUNG. TO THE NORTH OF SKOUN ON ROUE 6, ENEMY FORCES ATTACKED TANG KOUK FOLLOWING THE LOSS OF PRAKHAM LAST WEEK TO THE ENEMY.

4. AN AIR-MOBILE, WATERBORNE FANK FORCE HAS BEEN THROWN INTO THE ACTION TO RELIEVETHE ISOLATED OUTPOST OF PREY KRY TO THE SOUTHEAST OF KOMPONG CHHNANG. THE ACTION IS CONTINUING ON FRIDAY.

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